

## Message Text

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ACTION MED-03

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R 071050Z MAY 78

FM USLO RIYADH

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

SECSTATE WASHDC 467

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS RIYADH 342

KUWAIT FOR RMO DR. REED

STATE FOR M/MED DR. BROWN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMED, CDES - PERSINGER, I D

SUBJ: CHRONOLOGY OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN AMCIT DEATH

REF (A) RIYADH 265 (B) KUWAIT 2385

1. AS REQUESTED PERSONAL CONVERSATION AND REFTEL B, SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN INJURY AND ULTIMATE DEATH OF AMCIT IVAL DALE PERSINGER UP TO ARRIVAL OF RMO IS PROVIDED BELOW. EVENTS BEGAN DURING FIELD TRIP TO AL-QASIM AREA APPROX SIX HUNDRED KILOMETERS NORTH AND WEST OF RIYADH BU U.S.-SAUDI ARABIAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION (JECOR) SOULS SCIENTISTS RICHARD H. GILBERT (TDY FROM WASHINGTON) AND IVAL D. PERSINGER (PERMANENTLY ASSEGNGED RIYADH).

MONDAY APRIL 10 1930 HOURS. PERSINGER RECEIVES SHARP PAIN ON LEFT FOOT WHILE WALKING OUTSIDE CAMP WITH GILBERT. EXAMINATION OF FOOT AFTER RETURN TO CAMP SHOWS NO APPARENT BREAK OR PUNCTURE IN SKIN. BOTH MEN RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT.

MONDAY 2330 HOURS. PERSINGER AWAKES WITH NAUSEA AND HEADACHE. DISCOMFORT LESSENS AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR. PERSINGER GOES BACK TO SLEEP.

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TUESDAY APRIL 11 0530 HOURS. PERSINGER AWAKES WITH SEVERE HEADACHE AND SWELLING IN LEFT FOOT AND ANKLE. GILBERT BREAKS CAMP, LOADS PERSINGER INTO VEHICLE, AND HEADS FOR RIYADH.

TUESDAY 0900-1130 HOURS. NAUSEA AND HEADACHES INCREASE.

AFTER 1130 PERSINGER IS SEMI-CONSCIOUS, ALTHOUGH HE IS

RATIONAL ENOUGH TO GUIDE GILBERT TO CLINIC AREA AFTER REACHING RIYADH.

TUESDAY 1330 HOURS. GILBERT AND PERSINGER ARRIVE AT BENDIX SIYANCO DISPENSARY IN RIYADH. JECOR REPRESENTATIVES NOTIFIED OF INCIDENT.

TUESDAY 1345 HOURS. JECOR DIRECTOR JOHN HUMMON AND ADMIN OFFICER ROGER BEEVER ARRIVE DISPENSARY AND CONFER WITH DISPENSARY DIRECTOR DR. DELAURENTOS. DECISION IS MADE TO TRANSFER PERSINGER TO BETTER EQUIPPED REGULAR HOSPITAL.

TUESDAY 1400-1430 HOURS. DR. DELAURENTOS AND HUMMON TALK WITH DR. GOULD (DEPUTY MEDICAL DIRECTOR) AND TARRELL SMITH (ADMINISTRATOR) AT KING FAISAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL (KFSH). ONCE DR. DELAURENTOS STATES LIFE OF PERSINGER IS DEFINITELY AT STAKE, SMITH AND GOULD IMMEDIATELY BEGIN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE.

TUESDAY 1450 HOURS. PERSINGER ADMITTED TO KFSH INTENSIVE CARE UNIT. FAMILY ARRIVES, TALKS BRIEFLY WITH PERSINGER BEFORE HE IS SEDATED.

TUESDAY 1700 HOURS. RESPIRATION STOPS. REVIVAL IS ACCOMPLISHED MECHANICALLY, BUT LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS REQUIRED THEREAFTER.  
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WEDNESDAY APRIL 12. U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (USMTM) PHYSICIAN DR. PAPPAS ARRIVES FROM DHAHRAN, CONFERS WITH KFSH DOCTORS. USLO CONTACTS DEPT AND U.S. MISSION GENEVA TO EXPEDITE TRAVEL OF BROTHER AND DAUGHTER TO RIYADH AT REQUEST OF FAMILY AND ADVICE OF DOCTORS.

THURSDAY APRIL 13. RMO DR. REED ARRIVES RIYADH TO CONFER WITH ATTENDING PHYSICIANS. MEDEVAC POSSIBILITY DISMISSED.

FIRDAY APRIL 14 0945 HOURS. DEATH OF PERSINGER.

2. PERSINGER CASE EXPOSES TWO SEPARATE MEDICAL ISSUES CONCERNING U.S. OFFICIAL COMMUNITY IN RIYADH:

A. EXOTIC DANGERS SUCH AS SNAKEBITE CANNOT BE DISMISSED. AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF POSSIBLE REMEDIES, AS WELL AS PRECAUTIONARY AND SELF-HELP INTERIM PROCEDURES FOR USE ENROUTE TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, REQUIRE WIDEST DISSEMINATION.

B. EXCEPT WHEN LIFE/LIMB/SIGHT ARE CLEARLY ENDANGERED, KFSH IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR EXPATRIATE USE. PROMPT ADMITTANCE OF

PERSINGER HIGHLIGHTS SEVERITY OF SITUATION NECESSARY FOR ACCESS TO KFSH. FOR ALL ROUTINE AND NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SITUATIONS, NO LOCAL HIGH QUALITY HOSPITAL FACILITIES EXIST. EACH ADDITIONAL U.S. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNED TO RIYADH MAKES PRESENT UNCERTAIN SITUATION MORE TENOUS AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO CRISIS AND/OR TRAGEDY.

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